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SUBJECT Klaus Barbie Cover-up

JANE PAULEY: Some new developments in the Klaus Barbie case are startling. Correspondent Mark Nikannen is here with them.

MARK NIKANNEN: Thanks, Jane.

The Justice Department is investigating Klaus Barbie's relationship with U.S. spy agencies after World War II. Now according to sources close to the investigation, Barbie ran a spy network for U.S. military intelligence in postwar Germany. But, the sources say, there was a problem using Barbie as a spy. The French wanted him for war crimes, so U.S. officials devised a coverup. They used a front man.

A small castle deep in the Bavarian forest, a house that was a spy nest near Augsburg, Germany, a question mark next to the description of a Nazi spy's death; his grave in a small German town: All were part of Joseph Murk's secret life and mysterious death.

During World War II, Murk was a Nazi spy in France. He worked closely with Klaus Barbie who ran the German Gestapo in Leon. Sources close to the investigation say, in 1948, in this house near Augsburg, Germany, U.S. military intelligence used Murk as a front man for Barbie's spy work. Information gathered by Barbie was attributed to Murk in spy reports.

A source at the Justice Department says the substitution of Murk's name for Barbie's is causing problems, because investigators can't tell exactly what Barbie did by reading the spy reports. The source also says the investigation has been hampered because other reports from Murk and Barbie were read and